Rationale for Licensing of Agricultural Products

2797. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind continuing licensing, canalization, quota-permit and levy of sugarcane, sugarcane products, milk cotton and paddy; and

(b) by when licensing thereof is likely to be done away with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Licensing, canalization, quota-permit have been liberalised after the recent economic policy of liberalisation. Status on specific items is given below:—

(i) *Sugarcane and Sugarcane products:* There is no licensing, canalization or quota-permit and levy on sugarcane. However there is licensing in respect of establishment of new sugar factories/ expansion in the existing sugar factories. Regarding sugarcane products, sugarcane is used for the manufacture of sugar, khandsari and gur. Further, the present policy of licensing of sugar industry including option of delicensing is under examination.

(ii) *Milk:* Dairy industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing since July, 1991. Milk and milk products are not being canalised since 1993. Quantitative annual ceilings in respect of export of skimmed milk powder butter and pure milk ghee are fixed by the Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority. So far 10,000 MTs of skimmed milk-powder and 1,000 MTs of butter and pure milk ghee have so far been released for export during the current year.

(iii) *Paddy:* At present permit/licence is issued for installing a rice mill. However, a proposal is under consideration for repeal of Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958 with the objective of allowing any person to instal a rice mill without any permit/licence in any State.

(iv) *Cotton:* Licence from the Central Government is not required for installing a new cotton ginning and pressing unit.

Imports are under open general licence with zero duty. There is no canalising for exports of cotton. Government releases export quota after an assessment of domestic production availability and demand keeping in view the interest of cotton producers on one hand and those of consuming section on the other, particularly the de-controlled sector like handlooms.

जनजातीय लोगों का ईसाई धर्म में परिवर्तन

2798. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि देश में कार्यरत ईसाई मिशनरियों द्वारा बड़े पैमाने पर जनजातीय लोगों को लालच देकर उनका धर्म परिवर्तन कराया जा रहा है;

(ख) अब तक देश में इन मिशनरियों द्वारा कुल कितने लोगों का धर्म-परिवर्तन कराया जा चुका है और उसका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इन मिशनरियों की कार्य प्रणाली पर नजर रखने के लिए किसी कार्यदल का गठन किया है; और

(घ) इस संबंध में विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या है?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और प्राप्त होने पर सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।